

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00966 150159Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /115 W
-----025138 150208Z /62

P R 142036Z APR 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1630
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0966

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV MILI PINT ET SO CU
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DENIES CUBANS WILL ASSIST
ETHIOPIAN MILITARY EFFORTS IN ERITREA

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION ON OTHER MATTERS, APRIL 14, WITH
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS
MARTA JIMENEZ (WHO IS ALSO CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING LIAISON
WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS), USINT OFFICER RAISED
QUESTION OF CURRENT CUBAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ERITREAN LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS. MISS JIMENEZ SAID THAT, UNDER HAILE SELASSIE, CUBA
HAD SUPPORTED ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN GENERAL, WITH
NO SPECIAL TIES WITH ANY PARTICULAR GROUP. NOW, IN CONTRAST,
SHE SAID, CUBA SUPPORTS MENGISTU'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. THAT IS, SHE SAID, CUBA
OPPOSES THE ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER OPPOSITION TO ERITREAN LIBERATION
MOVEMENT WOULD TRANSLATE INTO CUBAN SUPPORT OF MENGISTU'S
MILITARY EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS ERITREANS, MISS JIMENEZ SAID
NO. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHETHER SHE WAS SURE SHE WAS
CORRECT IN LIGHT OF RECENT STATEMENTS (E.G., CUBAN
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CONDEMNATION OF DAVID OWEN'S SPEECH - SEE HAVANA 906) WHICH
SUGGESTED THAT CUBA HAS NOT FORECLOSED IDEA OF MILITARY
INVOLVEMENT, MISS JIMENEZ SAID SHE IS "ABSOLUTELY SURE" -
CUBA WOULD NOT BECOME MILITARILY INVOLVED IN SUPPRESSING
ERITREANS.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA RECENTLY DENIED

TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT CUBAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN MOVED
TO ERITREA. WHILE THIS APPEARS TO CONTRADICT US INFORMATION,
IT DOES COINCIDE WITH THRUST OF MISS JIMENEZ' STATEMENT. WE
CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE CERTAIN TO WHAT DEGREE HERE ASSERTIONS
REFLECT INDEPENDENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION OR SIMPLY
REPETITION OF MALMIERCA'S LINE TO FOREIGNERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ERITREA, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0969
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780455/aaaabuuz.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eea201b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2964584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DENIES CUBANS WILL ASSIST ETHIOPIAN MILITARY EFFORTS IN ERITREA
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, PINT, ET, SO, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eea201b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014